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July ²⁵~~10~~, 1984

Ms. Mari Jo Buhle
Associate Professor
American Civilization
and History
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

Dear Ms. Buhle:

Thank you very much for your letter and for your comments on the recently appointed members of the National Council on the Humanities.

I share your concern about the credentials and stature of some of these individuals who, for an interim period, hold these important Council positions. Persons who are informed, thoughtful and of some distinction in the humanities are essential for this unique public agency to function properly.

I very much regret the way these recess appointments have been handled by the Reagan administration. The President has the authority to take this action but, when exercised in such non-urgent cases, it is clearly done to avoid scrutiny and oversight by the Senate.

I appreciate knowing your thoughts on this unfortunate situation and of your support for a strong and vital Humanities Endowment.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap